



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Macedonia's first education web portal launched

Teachers, parents and students to be linked through U.S.-supported project with Ministry of Education

A new web portal (www.schools.edu.mk) enabling teachers, parents and students from every school in Macedonia to exchange experiences, and share their resources, effective teaching methods, and questions, has gone "live." The resource is the first of its kind in Macedonia.

The initiative is a project of the Ministry of Education and Science, carried out with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

"This education portal is designed to help teachers, students and parents communicate better, share information better and do a better job in the end of educating the students of Macedonia for the 21st century," said U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic in a statement prepared for the May 11 launch ceremony.

The portal will make it possible for schools to create their own websites which will be linked via the portal. In addition, all teachers and students in Macedonia are expected to have their own email account linked to the portal.

Students will be able to help build their school's website, and communicate with teachers and each other. Teachers will be able to collaborate with their counterparts, and create and share content in the Macedonian and/or Albanian languages. Parents are encouraged to use the website to make decisions about where to enroll their children, find out what they are learning, and communicate with teachers.

"It's a cyber classroom, a cyber teacher's lounge, a cyber parent-teacher meeting and a cyber suggestion box -- all rolled into one," said Dick Goldman, USAID Mission Director in Macedonia. "This is what digital technology does best. Instantly putting people and resources together, no matter where they are located."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic

institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>